

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

## FY 2010 National Water Program End of Year Performance by Subobjective

The following chapters provide a summary of the progress made toward accomplishing environmental and program goals for each subobjective described in the FY 2010 *National Water Program Guidance*. Each subobjective chapter includes the following information:

- A brief summary of overall performance in 2010 and the previous four years for measures under each subobjective.
- A description of performance highlights, including what commitments were met and what factors contributed to success.
- A description of management challenges, if appropriate, identifying key factors that led to measures not being met and next steps to improve performance for the future.

Each subobjective section focuses primarily on measures with FY 2010 commitments. Indicator measures are discussed where trends significantly differ from previous year's results. Annual Commitment System (ACS) measure codes are provided in the text in parentheses.

### Key for Reading Performance Measure Charts and Tables

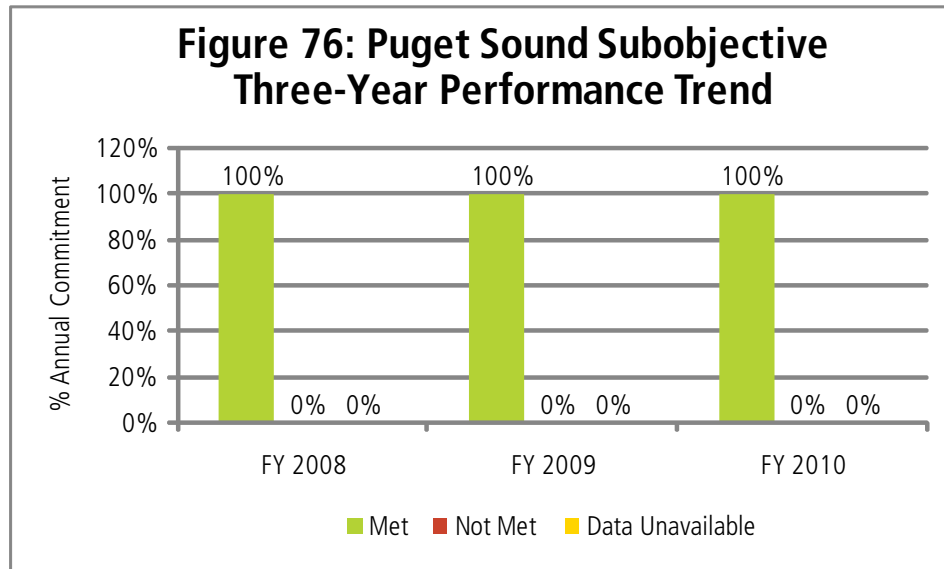
For all charts with national trend results, commitments are reflected by trend lines and results by vertical bars. For charts with regional FY 2010 results, a dotted line indicates the national FY 2010 commitment for that particular measure. Although regions use the national commitment as a point of reference in setting their annual commitments, regional commitments may vary based on different conditions. Green bars in both national and regional charts identify commitments met, and red bars identify measures not met.

For the measure summary tables in each subobjective chapter, a green "up" arrow means that a measure met its FY 2010 commitment, and a red "down" arrow indicates that the annual commitment was not met. The letter "I" means that the measure is an indicator measure and did not have an annual commitment for FY 2010. Measures without data or not reporting in FY 2010 are indicated by "Data Unavailable." An "LT" symbol notes that the measure has a long-term goal and does not have an annual commitment. A gold star (★) in the past trends column highlights that the measure has met its annual commitment 100% of the time over the past four or five years. And finally, the appendix number represents the page in Appendix D (D-00) on the website where additional details about the measure can be found, and the figure number is the number of the chart in the chapter.



## Subobjective: Puget Sound

EPA met all of its commitments and reported data for all of its measures for the Puget Sound subobjective for the third consecutive year. (Figure 76)



FY 2010 ACS Code	Measure Description	Met/Not Met (I = Indicator) (Data Unavailable = No Data/Not Reporting) (LT = Long-Term Target)	Past Trends/ # of Years Met	Appendix Page Num- ber (D-0)/ Figure Number
<b>Subobjective 4.3.8 Puget Sound</b>				
SP-49	Increase acres of Puget Sound shellfish areas	▲	3/3	D-61/Fig. 77
SP-50	Remediate Puget Sound contaminated sediments	▲	3/3	D-62
SP-51	Restore acres of Puget Sound estuarine wetlands	▲	3/3	D-62

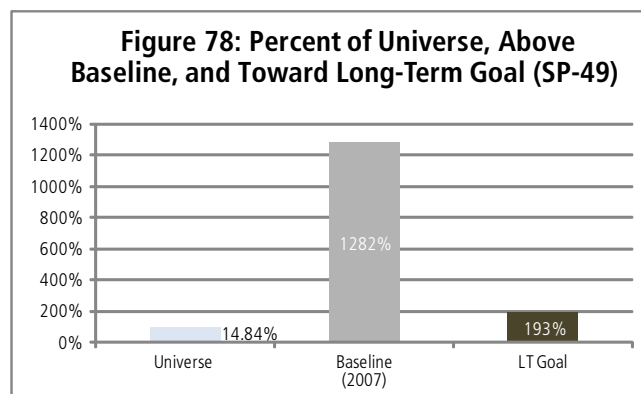
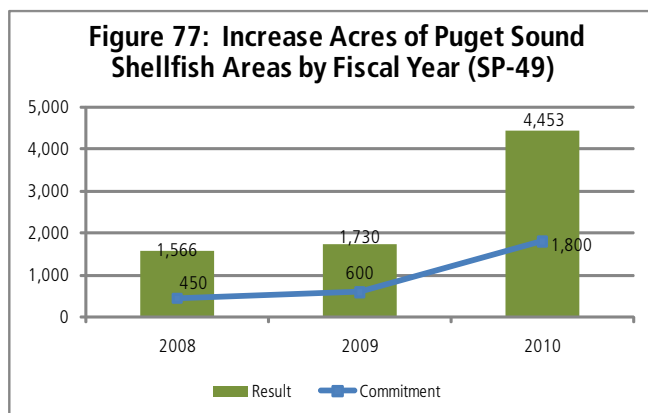
The Puget Sound Basin is the largest population and commercial center in the Pacific Northwest, supporting a vital system of international ports, transportation systems, and defense installations. The ecosystem encompasses roughly 20 rivers and 2,800 square miles of sheltered inland waters that provide habitat to hundreds of species of marine mammals, fish, and sea birds.

## FY 2010 Performance Highlights and Management Challenges

In 2010, EPA and its state, local, and tribal partners improved water quality in the Puget Sound Basin, which enabled the lifting of harvest restrictions in 4,453 acres of shellfish bed growing areas (cumulative from FY 2006) (SP-49) (Figure 77). This significantly exceeded the FY 2010 commitment of 1,800 acres and the 2014 long-term goal of 2,300 acres. This was due to four key factors:

- There were many significant upgrades in the health of shellfish growing areas during FY 2010, including 1,600 acres in one area alone after 25 years at a lower classification status. There was only one downgrade during that period (only 33 acres).
- The region was experiencing El Niño conditions, resulting in less precipitation and fewer storm events, which have the ability to adversely affect water quality and shellfish growing bed status.
- EPA and its partners directed significant funding to local health districts whose source control efforts have been increasingly successful to address pathogen sources upstream or upcurrent from shellfish resources in Puget Sound.
- Most of the areas that have been recertified are downstream of human residences relying on septic systems, many of which were older and intended to support more seasonal recreational use. In these areas, EPA has been emphasizing enhanced maintenance and pulling the treatment areas back from shoreline areas.

As of 2010, EPA and its partners had opened approximately 15% of the total acres of shellfish beds impacted by degraded or declining water quality in the Puget Sound (30,000 acres) (Figure 78).



As of the end of FY 2010, EPA and its partners were still working to achieve and report additional results beyond FY 2009 in remediating acres of prioritized contaminated sediments. (commitment = 123; result = 123.1; cumulative starting in FY 2006) (SP-50). Although there has been progress in remediating areas of contaminated sediments, additional acres for this measure are not counted until actions to prevent recontamination are complete. No Puget Sound Superfund completions were anticipated in FY 2010, and the commitment reflected this.

Approximately, 10,062 acres of tidally and seasonally influenced estuarine wetlands have been restored in the Puget Sound Basin since FY 2006 (SP-51). In FY 2010, the Agency's commitment was significantly exceeded due to the completion of a very large project that accounted for over 3,200 acres of habitat alone. In general, success in this measure is facilitated by the Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership (a group of concerned citizens, nonprofit organizations, ports, and others working with local, state, tribal, and federal government), which works to identify and implement projects protecting valuable nearshore habitat around Puget Sound.